WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital contents distribution system having a client, a digital contents server, a roaming server, and a network connected between the client, the digital contents server, and the roaming server,

wherein said roaming server comprises means for receiving from the digital contents server a digital content with an intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content, and

means for converting the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into another kind of intellectual property right protection system, and for delivering the converted system to said client.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said client includes means for transmitting, to said roaming server, information on the intellectual property right protection system available for said client.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said roaming server performs conversion to the intellectual property right protection system available for said client.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said client includes means for transmitting, to the digital

contents server, information on the intellectual property right protection system available for said client.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said roaming server receives information on a request for conversion of the intellectual property right protection system from the digital contents server, and converts the intellectual property right protection system on the basis of the information.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein said roaming server includes means for vicariously executing authentication between said client and said digital contents server.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

8. A system according to claim 7, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message in accordance with MPEG-4 IS v.1 is used to identify the

IPMP system.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said client includes means for transmitting information on IPMPS_Type available for the client to said roaming server.

11. A system according to claim 10, wherein said client includes means for transmitting IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information for identification of said client.

12. A system according to claim 10, wherein said client includes means for transmitting URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information for identification of the digital content.

13. A digital contents distribution system having a client, a roaming server, and a network connected between the client and the roaming server,

wherein said roaming server comprises means for receiving from said client a digital content with an intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content, and

means for converting the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into another kind of intellectual property right

protection system, and for delivering the converted system to said client.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein said client includes means for transmitting, to said roaming server, information on an intellectual property right protection system available for said client.

15. A system according to claim 13, wherein said roaming server performs conversion to the intellectual property right protection system available for said client.

16. A system according to claim 13, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

17. A system according to claim 16, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

18. A system according to claim 17, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message in accordance with MPEG-4 IS v.1 is used to identify the IPMP system.

19. A system according to claim 18, wherein said

client includes means for transmitting information on IPMPS_Type available for the client to said roaming server.

20. A system according to claim 19, wherein said client includes means for transmitting IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information for identification of said client.

21. A system according to claim 19, wherein said client has means for transmitting URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information for identification of the digital content.

22. A roaming server connected to a client and to a digital contents server through a network, comprising:

receiving means for receiving from said digital contents server a digital content with an intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

conversion means for converting the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into another kind of intellectual property right protection system; and

distribution means for delivering to said client the digital content converted by said conversion means.

23. A roaming server according to claim 22, further comprising protection system information receiving means for receiving information on an intellectual property right protection system available for said client.

24. A roaming server according to claim 23, wherein said conversion means performs conversion processing on the basis of the information received by said protection system information receiving means.

25. A roaming server according to claim 22, further comprising means for receiving information on a request for conversion of an intellectual property right protection system from the digital contents server, wherein said conversions means converts the intellectual property right protection system on the basis of the information on the request for conversion.

26. A roaming server according to claim 22, further comprising means for vicariously executing authentication between said client and said digital contents server.

27. A roaming server according to claim 22, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

28. A roaming server according to claim 27, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

29. A roaming server according to claim 28, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message in accordance with MPEG-4 IS v.1 is used to identify the IPMP system.

30. A roaming server according to claim 29, further comprising means for receiving IPMPS_Type available for said client.

31. A roaming server according to claim 29, further comprising means for receiving IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information for identification of said client.

32. A roaming server according to claim 30, further comprising means for receiving URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information for identification of the digital content.

33. A roaming server connected to a client through a network, comprising:

receiving means for receiving from said client a digital content with an intellectual property right

protection system protecting the digital content;

conversion means for converting the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into another kind of intellectual property right protection system; and

distribution means for delivering to said client the digital content converted by said conversion means.

34. A roaming server according to claim 33, further comprising protection system information receiving means for receiving information on an intellectual property right protection system available for said client.

35. A roaming server according to claim 34, wherein said conversion means performs conversion processing on the basis of the information received by said protection system information receiving means.

36. A roaming server according to claim 33, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

37. A roaming server according to claim 36, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

38. A roaming server according to claim 37, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message in accordance with MPEG-4 IS v.1 is used to identify the IPMP system.

39. A roaming server according to claim 38, further comprising means for receiving information on IPMPS_Type available for said client.

40. A roaming server according to claim 39, further comprising means for receiving IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information for identification of said client.

41. A roaming server according to claim 39, further comprising means for receiving URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information for identification of the digital content.

42. A digital contents distribution method in a system having a client, a digital contents server, a roaming server, and a network connected between the client, the digital contents server, and the roaming server, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving by said roaming server from said digital contents server a digital content with an intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital

content; and

converting by said roaming server the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into another kind of intellectual property right protection system, and delivering the converted system from said roaming server to said client.

43. A storage medium comprising program codes stored thereon, the digital contents distribution method according to claim 42 being programmed on said program codes.

44. A digital contents distribution method in a system structured by having a client, a roaming server, and a network connected between the client and the roaming server, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving by said roaming server from said client a digital content with an intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content; and

converting by said roaming server the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into another kind of intellectual property right protection system, and delivering the converted system from said roaming server to said client.

45. A storage medium comprising program codes stored thereon, the digital contents distribution method according to claim 44 being programmed on said program codes.

46. A digital contents distribution method for a roaming server connected to a client and to a digital contents server through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving from said digital contents server a digital content with an intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

converting the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into another kind of intellectual property right protection system; and

delivering the converted digital content to said client.

47. A storage medium comprising program codes stored thereon, the digital contents distribution method according to claim 46 being programmed on said program codes.

48. A digital contents distribution method for a roaming server connected to a client through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving from said client a digital content with an intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

converting the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into another kind of intellectual property right protection system; and

delivering the converted digital content to said client.

49. A storage medium comprising program codes stored thereon, the digital contents distribution method according to claim 48 being programmed on said program codes.

50. An information processing apparatus capable of being connected to an external device through a network, comprising:

transmission means for transmitting information on an intellectual property right protection system available for the apparatus and identification information for identification of said apparatus to the external device over said network; and

receiving means for receiving from the external device a digital content with the intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content.

51. An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

52. An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

53. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message in accordance with MPEG-4 IS v.1 is used to identify the IPMP system.

54. An apparatus according to claim 53, wherein IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information is used as information for identification of said apparatus.

55. An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein said transmission means transmits to said external device the digital content with an intellectual property right protection system different from the intellectual property right protection system provided in said apparatus.

56. An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein said transmission means transmits to said external

device location information designating the location of the digital content.

57. An apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the location information comprises URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information.

58. An information processing method for an information processing apparatus capable of being connected to an external device through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting information on an intellectual property right protection system available for said apparatus and identification information for identification of said apparatus to said external device over said network; and

receiving from said external device a digital content with the intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content.

59. A storage medium comprising program codes stored thereon, the information processing method according to claim 58 being programmed on said program codes.